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Northern Region News



Issue #14

November 27, 1989

Beaverhead National Forest

Smokey, the Computer Bear

by Jack de Golla, Public Affairs Specialist

"Dear Smokey,

my name is sara beth miller
my favorite animal
is a calif i am 7 years old
i go to reichle school
my teachers name is mrs. hicks
i am in first grade
do you have any smokey
bear hats? i would like to
be your pen pal. are the woods
scary?

sarah miller"

Ordinary letters between a young girl and the world's most famous bear? Yes and no. This exchange of correspondence took place on computers, thanks to the Big Sky Telegraph, a computer bulletin board at Western Montana College in Dillon.

Through "the Telegraph" kids in rural schools can learn how to communicate with other computers all over the world. One thing



Smokey Bear, hard at work on his computer. Photo by Jack de Golla.

the kids can choose to do is send a message to Smokey the Bear. Smokey, otherwise known as Mike Jatczynski, Beaverhead NF's supervisory computer program analyst, answers questions from kids about a variety of natural history subjects.

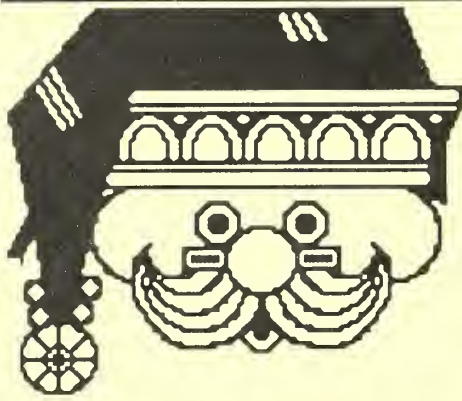
Beaverhead NF is planning to expand its computer "face" by starting a full bulletin board of its own, through the Big Sky Telegraph. The new system will allow computer users everywhere to find

out about Beaverhead planning activities, environmental documents out for public review, campgrounds and other recreation opportunities, as well as the latest Forest Service news. And it all started with a bear! Yo, Smokey! You on line?

"Hi Sara Miller,

I am very happy you asked me if it is scary in the woods! No, it is not. I think the woods are very beautiful — even at night. Do you know that many animals that you do not see during the daytime in the forest come out at night? In fact, bears like me like to roam and forage when it is dark. Do you know of any other animals that like to roam during the night?

Smokey"



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Regional News

New Book Celebrates Idaho's National Forests

There's a new book out. Through its pages, you can almost touch the land it celebrates . . . the national forests in Idaho. The book tells the story of each of Idaho's national forests, through writeups authored by individuals on these forests, and through beautiful, full-color photographs. More than half of the photographs were taken by Forest Service employees, often while on the job.

The 108-page book, which includes all the national forests in Idaho, comes in both hard-bound and "perfect bound" cover.

Separate publications of each national forest are also available.

Prices for the individual forest format are \$2.00 to \$3.00, \$14.95 for the perfect bind, and \$25.00 for hard-bound copies. Interpretive associations and national forest employee's asso-



ciations can purchase the books to sell, and several book dealers in Idaho will be selling them. They are ideal to give to key contacts, elected officials, special use permittees, or others interested in natural resource management. They are also perfect to be given as gifts or awards.

To purchase, call 1-800-366-3764 or write Forests of Idaho, c/o Peak Media, Inc., Box 925, Hailey, ID 83333.

The idea for the book, a product of one of the many National Recreation Strategy efforts underway

in Idaho, was directed by the Idaho national forest supervisors. A team of employees, including Teresa Chase, Palouse District Clearwater NF; Dan Baird, Salmon NF; Frank Carroll and Brent McBeth, Boise NF; Ed Waldapfel, Sawtooth NF and advisor Jack Lavin, were responsible for the project.

Beaverhead National Forest

Forest Archaeologist Teaches at Western

by Jack de Golia, Public Affairs Specialist

Mike Ryan, Beaverhead NF's archaeologist, joined forces with Professor Buzz Lahren, a cultural anthropologist, in a survey course on archaeology at Western Montana college in Dillon. The two-credit course gave juniors and seniors a chance to satisfy breadth requirements needed to complete their degrees. It included three-hour evening lectures and two days of field work.

According to Mike, the course gave him a chance to sensitize the students to the value of cultural resources, to make them more aware of the laws and regulations



that protect them, and to help them learn about the role public agencies play in cultural resource protection.

During the two days in the field, the students surveyed sites and made tests of those sites to determine their cultural values. Mike chose known sites for them to work on. While this was the first time for this class, Mike is certain it won't be the last. And, both the Forest and the college are keenly interested in more relationships like this.

*Students excavating a test square.
Photo by Jack de Golia.*

Gallatin National Forest

Wade Parac Gets Award

by Hilary Dustin, Public Affairs Specialist

Gallatin NF employee Wade Parac went to Washington, D.C. for the annual Department of Agriculture Hand-capped Federal Employee Awards Ceremony. Wade's supervisor, Sherry Metzger, accompanied him to the October 3rd ceremony, which honors all of the nominees for the award.

Although Wade has been confined to a wheelchair since a 1976 automobile accident, his love of outdoor activities remains. This has served him well as an informal advisor to the Forest in designing barrier-free recreation facilities. Wade's efforts in fund-raising, public relations and coordinating volunteer advisors made him a vital team member in the Hyalite Challenge Project. He can also take pride in recent barrier-free improvements to Livingston Ranger District's Pine Creek Campground.

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Idaho Panhandle National Forests

River Clean-up a Success

by Jaime Schmidt, Forester, Avery District

A dump truck overflowing with trash and a stock truck mounded with aluminum cans provided ample evidence of the success of St. Joe River Clean-Up Day, Saturday, September 9.

Everything from a ragged tennis shoe to twisted culvert and part of a rusted car body filled Shoshone County's dump truck, all of it scavenged from the river's bed and banks by over 50 volunteers. Residents of Coeur d'Alene, the Silver Valley and Spokane joined forces with volunteers from Avery and Calder to rid 31 miles of the St. Joe River of debris.

Parents with children in tow combed the banks, while experienced river rafters pulled scrap from the deep water. The volunteers collected over 260 pounds of aluminum, part salvaged from the river and roadside and part donated. Proceeds from the aluminum went to the Avery and Calder Quick Response Units, which provide volunteer emergency medical service for the St. Joe River area.

A celebration potluck was held at the end of the day and all volunteers were awarded "clean river" T-shirts. Participants expressed their support for the clean-up day, and hoped that it, or a similar public involvement day, would become an annual event on the District.

The clean-up day was sponsored by Avery Ranger District, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Shoshone County, Plum Creek Timber Company, Potlatch Corporation and Beck Distributors of St. Maries. The event was held in conjunction with Federal Lands Clean-Up Day.

Employee Honored

by Kay Bugger, Business Management Clerk, Bozeman District

Mike Clow, Bozeman Ranger District employee, has been honored as the first recipient of the Scott Hansen Memorial Award. Scott Hansen was an exemplary seasonal employee who worked on Bozeman District from 1979-1983. He was killed in an auto accident. The award is given to recognize a seasonal employee who exhibits the same outstanding work traits for which Scott Hansen was known — taking initiative, providing leadership, assisting others, portraying a positive attitude, enthusiasm for work, and caring deeply for public lands and resources.

Clow, a Bozeman District employee for the past 15 summers, was selected by his co-workers to be the most deserving of this recognition. Clow teaches German at Montana State University, and works for the Forest Service summers.



Mike Clow (left) accepts award from District Ranger Bob Dennee.

News Briefs

The Smokechaser -- Now in its Second Printing

In response to urging from friends and prospective customers, retiree Carl Weholt, at 89, has just released the second printing of his book *The Smokechaser*. Weholt was construction supervisor on the Nez Perce NF from 1958 until he retired in 1965. He was also "head smokechaser" on the Pete King District of the old Selway NF from 1919 to 1922. *The Smokechaser* is an account of Weholt's experiences as a lookout in 1919. He was stationed at Canyon Creek Station, a log cabin on a ridge north of the Lochsa River Canyon.

In a review, Fred Johnson, Department of Forest Resources at the University of Idaho, calls the book "humorous, well-written, and delightful."

Anyone interested in getting a copy of the book can call or write: Carl Weholt, HC 67, Box 37, Grangeville, ID 83530; phone (208) 983-2568.

Aid to Hugo Victims

Clearwater NF employees showed the true meaning of "Forest Service family" recently when they raised nearly \$1,700 to send to Francis Marion NF to help Hurricane Hugo victims. Money was collected in a variety of ways -- "passing the hat," a donation jar, contributions from employee welfare funds, potlucks, auction of baked goods, etc.

Especially hard hit by Hurricane Hugo was McClellanville, South Carolina, site of the Wambaw Ranger District office. Four district employees lost their homes and at least 17 people had damage to their residences.

In Memoriam

Retiree **W.K. "Bill" Samsel**, 91, died October 13 in Polson. He began working for the Forest Service as a seasonal in 1924. He served as District Ranger on the Monture, Seeley Lake, Helena, Plains, Bonita and Missoula Districts. He retired in 1960.

Robert Smart, former supervisor of the Colville NF, died of cancer November 16 in Colville, Washington. He worked on the Kaniksu NF, and was District Ranger for Ninemile District, Lolo NF, and Troy District, Kootenai NF. He served as timber staff officer for Coeur d'Alene NF, then in 1962 moved to the Washington Office, timber management division. In 1966 he became supervisor of the Colville NF, where he worked until his retirement in 1974. Smart served 36 years with the Forest Service.

Larry Lewis, retired ranger, Gardiner District, Gallatin NF, died November 13, after a long illness, at 49. Lewis worked in various locations, including Ennis, Montana, Metaline Falls and Curlew, Washington, and Wallace, Idaho. For the last 11 years he served as Gardiner District Ranger. He retired last June due to ill health after 28 years with the Forest Service.

Andrew "Andy" Root, former employee of the St. Joe NF, died November 1 at 81. Root had also worked as a Civilian Conservation Corps foreman from 1936-41.

Smokeyjumper Career Day

by Kim Maynard and Tracey Vance

Bent under 110-pound packs, potential smokejumper candidates hiked around the Aerial Fire Depot (AFD) in Missoula at the third annual Smokjumper Career Day held October 10. Forty curious firefighters from all over Region One, and as far away as New Mexico, participated in the day-long program.

Career Day is sponsored by the Federal Women's Program (FWP) and Native American Program (NAP). It is designed to introduce Native Americans to the rewards and demands of smokejumping and to encourage them to consider smokejumping as a career, thereby increasing workforce diversity among smokejumpers.

The day began with introductions and welcomes by FWP Manager Mary Fields and Smokejumper Superintendent Gary Benavidez. Kim Maynard, women smokejumper recruiter, and Margarita Phillips, smokejumper, facilitated the day. At the training facilities participants watched 1989 rookies demonstrate jumping techniques, and afterwards they dined on a typical smokejumper lunch at the AFD dining room.

An added attraction this year was a simulated fire call in which participants were randomly selected to suit up. On the afternoon agenda was a tour of the AFD, and workshops in preparing job applications (SF 171) and in physical fitness training. The participants also had an opportunity to observe an actual parachute jump, which generated excitement and furthered the commitment to a winter's worth of physical training in preparation for rookie

training.

All participants left with a better understanding of the rigors, hardships, and rewards of the job. The Women Smokejumper Recruitment Program recently published a book, titled *Physical Training for Smokejumping*. Copies were distributed, along with a packet of forms, guidelines, and contacts



Photo by Wayne Williams.

to aid candidates' preparation for next year's try-out. The book and packet are available for anyone interest in smokejumping and can be obtained by calling the AFD at 329-4900.

Beaverhead National Forest

Smokey Meets Parrot

by Jack de Golla, Public Affairs Specialist

Two veterans, Parrot, a recently retired pack mule, and Smokey Bear, talk over the "old days" at the Labor Day parade in Dillon. Parrot, who worked in the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness for 30 years, led the Forest Service contingent and was present to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.



Interagency Team Looks at Wilderness Mining Claims

by Liz Mathews, Mining Geologist

An interagency team of 25 geologists and mining engineers spent two weeks this August examining over 100 mining claims in the Gospel-Hump Wilderness. They came from Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management units all over the Nation, including Alaska, Utah, Kentucky, Washington, Oregon, Washington D.C., Idaho, Arizona and Montana.

The Red River District had received Plans of Operations covering proposed activities on 131 mining claims within the Gospel-Hump Wilderness. Before these proposed plans could be processed, a mineral examination of the claims had to be completed. Nez Perce NF geologists Liz Mathews and Nancy Rusho contemplated doing the necessary mineral examinations themselves, but quickly realized they would never be able to handle such a monumental workload. With the assistance of the Regional Office minerals staff, they got on the phone to professional acquaintances and eventually lined

up the necessary help. This was quite a challenge since expenses had to be picked up by the detailer's home units. Nevertheless, the response was overwhelming.

"Geologists are a real close-knit group," said Liz, offering an explanation for the response. "There is a tremendous amount of professional camaraderie out there which crosses over unit and agency boundaries," she said.

During the two-week detail, the geologists spent their time sampling, mapping, and describing the geology of the claims. One of the groups used suction dredges to sample a large block of placer claims.

Nez Perce NF Staff Officer Dave Fischer had nothing but praise for the tremendous volunteer effort. "They did a heck of a job," he said. "It's hard to even imagine getting that many detailers during the field season, let alone all the work they did. The minerals folks have really got something going."

Nez Perce National Forest

Volunteer Vacations Benefit Wilderness

by Shelley Dumas, Moose Creek Ranger District

It is said that lightning energy doesn't hit the same place twice. Wrong !!!!! For the third year in a row, a megawatt bolt from the American Hiking Society (AHS) struck Moose Creek Ranger District, leaving a swath of accomplishments. This group, from the AHS Volunteer Vacations program, is incred-



Front row l. to r. Rebel, Wilderness Ranger Allison Jackson, Bianca Bjorklund, Stephen Trimby. Back row, l. to r. John Jacobs, Steve Mogel, Marti Jordan, Margaret McCabe.

ible! Armed with a love of wilderness, limitless energy, and a determination to do something constructive, six volunteers powered their way through a significant rehabilitation project in the Bilk Mountain area on the southern edge of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The site was a high-mountain basin with no restrictive landforms, vegetation or lurking Bigfoots to discourage or squelch free-lance trail cutting. Over the years, multiple, severely-eroded trails have been gouged into and across this once-luxuriant sub-alpine meadow. Mike Myers, Moose Creek Trails Specialist, devised an innovative method for rescuing the area from over-use. With Wilderness Ranger Allison Jackson supervising, the volunteers trenched and water-barred the worst run-aways, sowed each damaged avenue with native seed, and covered the "works" with an excelsior erosion-control blanket to protect vegetation and deter further cutting.

The project lasted eight days. Then the volunteers trekked from Bilk Mountain to the Indian Hill trailhead, 35 miles away. They "vacationed" en route with some hefty trail maintenance, scoping new vistas, and becoming emotionally attached to their pulaskis and crosscut saws. At trails' end they were met by Mike Myers and presented with special Moose Creek T-shirts. Moose Creek District is happily indebted to Marti Jordan and Stephen Trimby from Massachusetts, Bianca Bjorklund from Louisiana, John Jacobs from California, Steve Mogel from New York and Margaret McCabe from Florida.

New Recreation Facilities Through Cost-Share

by George Baln, Cabinet Ranger District

Cabinet Ranger District is making good use of Challenge Cost-Share program opportunities. Through cooperative efforts with Washington Water Power, the Clark Fork Bass Anglers and private individuals from the towns of Noxon and Trout Creek, Montana, the District is constructing new recreational facilities along the Noxon and Cabinet Gorge Reservoirs. The cooperators have enlisted donations of time, money, and materials to construct boat ramps, picnic tables, shelters, and improved road systems at three separate sites. At one site a shallow swimming area and beach was established to provide safe swimming for young children. Current plans are for two of the sites to provide free use overnight camping; the other site planned for day use activities.

The Forest Service is providing concrete vault toilets and fire grates at each site as well as additional volunteer labor. Other contributors include Sanders County, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, ASARCO, Borax and Noranda minerals corporations, and many individuals and businesses from the surrounding area.



Cabinet District Ranger Jim Mershon and local citizen Chris Ingretson help raise the roof on a shelter on Noxon Reservoir. Photo courtesy of Sanders County Ledger.

Helena National Forest

Volunteers Awarded

by Lorraine Parrish, Public Affairs Specialist

Helena NF has been reaping many benefits from two volunteers in recent months. Al Adams and Ben Mayger started volunteering their time on Helena Ranger District in April, 1989. Al is the retired president of a large concrete company in Montana and Wyoming. Ben was an executive in the international petroleum business. He is now retired and lives in Helena. The two have accomplished numerous jobs for the District — corral building, barn repair, cleaning up and organizing tack, and gate building.

In August they took on the task of identification and signing on the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST). They build sign markers with the CDNST logo burned onto a white oak panel, to supplement the manufactured plastic identification signs. This provides hikers with a consistent, easily identifiable logo to follow on the trail. So far,

they've installed about 50 units, involving two panels each, and have covered approximately 20 miles of trail. Their woodburned signs have been adopted by the Regional Office for use on the other Forests through which the trail traverses.

The two volunteers are also working on a topographical map of the trail, noting distances to signs, sign numbers and type.

Helena District recently presented Al and Ben with an appreciation award for their remarkable accomplishments, and in recognition of their wonderful spirit and expressed gratitude in working for the Forest. Their philosophy is as remarkable



Ben Mayger, left, and Al Adams help mark the Continental Divide Trail in Montana.

as they are: "To pay back some of the investment that Montana and the entire country has afforded us all these years. This country has been good to both of us; we have been very fortunate. Now we want to give our services back."

Youths Prune Infected White Pine Trees

by Paul Gibbs, Forester Trainee

This past summer the Fernan Ranger District began a pruning program for blister rust infected Western white pine stands. The program was unique because it employed youths from both the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), and the Summer Youth Education Training Program (SYETP), a State of Idaho program for the employment of disadvantaged youths. During the field season the crew and program were the subject of Spokane T.V. and newspaper coverage.

The YCC and SYETP crew members were local high school students between the ages of 14 and 16. This was their first job experience and introduction to the Forest Service. A major emphasis of the program was to help the young crew members develop work and safety skills, environmental awareness, and personal self-esteem, as well as a good work ethic.



Training supervisor Paul Gibbs, left, with crew members Jason Wells, 14; Chrs Browning, 15; and Josh DeHart, 16. Photo courtesy of Chrs Anderson, Spokesman-Review.

The crew treated infected stands by pruning limb cankers and excising bole cankers. They completed 61 acres in the ten-week program. Each crew member became an expert at identifying Western white pine blister rust, and trees that were worth treating. They exhibited much pride in their work and accomplishments. Because of the success of this summer's program, there is a high level of interest on the District, and by the youths, to continue the program next year.

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